Solar PV: North versus South

What impact does location in the UK have on the returns of solar?

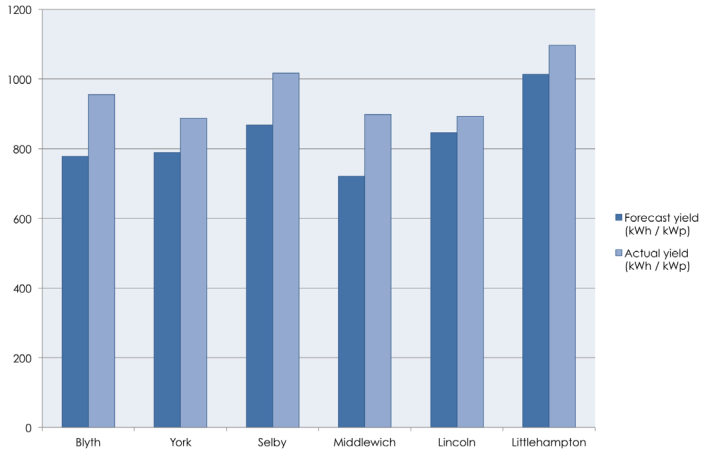
Using advanced software we can predict the amount of sunlight different areas of the UK will yield. The result is an accurate picture of the amount of electricity (measured in kWh per kWp of installed solar) we would expect to generate at any given location. This estimate is conservative and in most instances our systems exceed expectations.

Table: forecast yield for different locations in the UK, based on 30 degree pitch ground mounted system

Location (North)	kWh / kWp	Location (South)	kWh / kWp
Selby	970	Plymouth	1160
Blyth	778	Kent	1060
Leeds	745	Lincoln	1000
York	789	Littlehampton	1013
Middlewich	721	Cambridge	1020

As mentioned the above figures are a conservative estimate. Below is an analysis of how well some of our existing systems are performing around the UK. This is average data taken from 2-3 years after install. Variables such as pitch and orientation will all have an influence on the resultant yield.

Chart: forecast vs. actual data



Location	Pitch	Ground or Roof
Blyth	15	Roof
York	6	Roof
Selby	30	Ground
Middlewich	10	Roof
Lincoln	12	Roof
Littlehampton	30	Roof

When you add in external financial variables too (such as rising energy costs) it is possible to see even better results on the overall returns from the system.

250kW solar projects installed by our team in the north of England, including a 250kW roof mounted system for the Duke of Westminster's Grosvenor Farm; imagine what these systems would generate in the south!